

THE HONORABLE PAUL B. SNYDER

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

In re

WASHINGTON MUTUAL, INC.,
Debtor.

Case No. 08-12229-MFW
District of Delaware

Chapter 11

ESOPUS CREEK VALUE LP and
MICHAEL WILLINGHAM

Plaintiffs,

vs.

WASHINGTON MUTUAL, INC.,
Defendant.

Adversary No. 10-04136

NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF OF REMOVAL

TO: ESOPUS CREEK VALUE LP and MICHAEL WILLINGHAM

AND TO: SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on the 13th day of May, 2010, defendant Washington Mutual, Inc. filed with the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, and by reference the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington

NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF OF REMOVAL (NO.
10-04136) – 1

Perkins Coie LLP
1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, WA 98101-3099
Phone: 206.359.8000
Fax: 206.359.9000

1 at Tacoma a Notice of Removal to said Bankruptcy Court of the action originally brought by
2 Plaintiff in the Superior Court of Washington for Thurston County, Cause No. 10-2---854-1; and
3 that defendant promptly thereafter filed a copy of the Notice of Removal with the Clerk of the
4 Superior Court, so that this action has been removed from the Superior Court to the United States
5 Bankruptcy Court. A copy of the Notice of Removal is attached and herewith served upon you.
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10 DATED this 13th day of May, 2010.
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14 **PERKINS COIE LLP**
15

16 By: /s/ John S. Kaplan
17

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14 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
15 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
16 AT TACOMA
17

18
19 In re

20 WASHINGTON MUTUAL, INC.,

21
22 Debtor.
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24

Case No. 08-12229-MFW
District of Delaware

Chapter 11

25
26 ESOPUS CREEK VALUE LP and
27 MICHAEL WILLINGHAM

28 Plaintiffs,
29

30 vs.
31

32 WASHINGTON MUTUAL, INC.,
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34 Defendant.
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Adversary No. _____

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

38 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1452(a) and 1334(b), Rule 9027 of the Federal Rules of
39 Bankruptcy Procedure, Rule 101(e) of the Local Civil Rules of the U.S. District Court for
40 the Western District of Washington (the "District Court"), and Local Bankruptcy Rule 9027-
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42 1 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington (the "Bankruptcy
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44 Court"), and without waiving any and all applicable defenses at law and in equity to the
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NOTICE OF REMOVAL – 1

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53000-0005/LEGAL18307356.1

1 claim asserted in the Washington State Action (as defined below), defendant Washington
2 Mutual, Inc. ("WMI") hereby gives notice that it has removed the Washington State Action
3 from the Superior Court of the State of Washington, for the County of Thurston, to the
4 District Court, and, by reference and local rules, from the District Court to the Bankruptcy
5 Court.¹ This notice is supported by the Declaration of William C. Rava ("Rava Decl.") and
6 exhibits attached thereto. In support thereof, WMI states as follows:
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13 1. On September 26, 2008, WMI and WMI Investment Corp. (collectively,
14 "Debtors") each filed cases under title 11 of chapter 11 of the U.S. Code in the U.S.
15 Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Delaware Bankruptcy Court") (Chapter
16 11 Case No. 08-12229, Jointly Administered (Walrath, J.)).
17

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21 2. On March 26, 2010, Debtors filed a proposed joint plan of reorganization (the
22 "Plan"). The Plan's confirmation hearing is scheduled for July 20, 2010. A key component
23 of the Plan is the proposed global settlement (the "Settlement") of Debtors' multi-billion
24 dollar claims against, *inter alia*, JPMorgan Chase, N.A. ("JPMC") and the Federal Deposit
25 Insurance Corp. ("FDIC"), arising from the sale of assets pursuant to that certain Purchase
26 and Assumption Agreement, Whole Bank, dated as of September 25, 2008. the provisions
27 of the Settlement have been agreed to by WMI, JPMC and significant creditor groups of
28 WMI, as of this date, the FDIC has some remaining concerns. However, discussions among
29 the parties are ongoing, and they are hopeful that such agreement will be obtained in the
30 near future.
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35 3. On March 3, 2010, the Official Committee of WMI Equity Security Holders
36 (the "Equity Committee") filed an adversary proceeding (the "Adversary Proceeding")
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46 ¹ At the same time as the filing of this Notice of Removal, WMI is separately moving under 28 U.S.C. § 1412
47 to transfer the Washington State Action from this Court to the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware.

1 (Adversary Proceeding Case No. 10-50731 (Walrath, J.)) in the Delaware Bankruptcy Court
2 seeking an order under Revised Code of Washington (the "RCW") 23B.07.030 and
3
4 23B.01.010 compelling WMI to expend substantial estate resources to immediately convene
5 and hold an annual WMI shareholders' meeting for the nomination and election of WMI's
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7 board of directors. The Equity Committee's adversary complaint alleges that the Adversary
8
9 Proceeding constitutes a "core" proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Rava
10 Decl., Ex. A, ¶ 3. The Equity Committee's stated purpose in filing the Adversary
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12 Proceeding is to replace WMI's current board of directors with a slate of directors that will
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14 oppose the Plan and Settlement, under which WMI's shareholders will not receive economic
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16 distributions.
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21 4. On March 11, 2010, the Equity Committee filed a motion for summary
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23 judgment under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 7056 or, in the alternative, for relief
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25 from the automatic stay. Rava Decl., Ex. B.
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27 5. On April 7, 2010, WMI opposed the Equity Committee's summary judgment
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29 motion, Rava Decl., Ex. C; answered the Equity Committee's adversary complaint and
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31 asserted a counterclaim for relief under 11 U.S.C. § 105(a), alleging, *inter alia*, that because
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33 WMI was insolvent and the Equity Committee's attempt to force WMI to convene and hold
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35 an annual WMI shareholders' meeting constitutes "clear abuse," the Delaware Bankruptcy
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37 Court should "stay" the Adversary Proceeding "and/or otherwise bar the Equity Committee
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39 from seeking relief in Washington state court, or any other forum, in order to compel a WMI
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41 shareholders meeting." Rava Decl., Ex. D ¶ 31.
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43 6. On April 26, 2010, after finding that it had jurisdiction over the Adversary
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45 Proceeding under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and that the Adversary Proceeding constituted
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47 a "core" proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2), the Delaware Bankruptcy

NOTICE OF REMOVAL – 3

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1 Court found the automatic stay "inapplicable to an action by any one or more shareholders
2 of WMI . . . seeking to compel WMI to hold an annual shareholders meeting. . . ." Rava
3 Decl., Ex. E ¶ 1. The Delaware Bankruptcy Court made clear, however, that the "foregoing
4 is without prejudice to the rights of WMI to contest the relief requested in any such action in
5 any such court" and that the "relief granted herein does not affect, nor is it intended to affect,
6 the rights of WMI with respect to the Counterclaim. . . ." *Id.* ¶ 2. Thus, the Counterclaim is
7 still pending in the Delaware Bankruptcy Court.
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15 7. On April 26, 2010, plaintiffs Esopus Creek Value LP and Michael
16 Willingham (collectively, "Plaintiffs") sued WMI in the Superior Court of the State of
17 Washington, for the County of Thurston (Case No. 10-2-00854-1) (the "Washington State
18 Action"), asserting the same claim seeking the same relief as the Equity Committee in the
19 Adversary Proceeding. Rava Decl., Ex. F. On May 4, 2010, Plaintiffs amended this
20 complaint, asserting the same claim seeking the same relief against the same defendant as in
21 the original complaint. Rava Decl., Ex. G.
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29 8. On May 5, 2010, Plaintiffs moved to compel the holding of a WMI annual
30 shareholders' meeting. Rava Decl., Ex. H.
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33 9. 28 U.S.C. § 1452(a) permits removal of "any claim or cause of action in a
34 civil action . . . to the district court for the district where such civil action is pending, if [the]
35 district court has jurisdiction of such claim or cause of action under section 1334 of this
36 title." 28 U.S.C. § 1452(a). Under 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b), district courts have original (but
37 not exclusive) jurisdiction over "all civil proceedings arising under title 11, or arising in or
38 related to cases under title 11." *Id.* § 1334(b).
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45 10. The Washington State Action is "related to" WMI's chapter 11 case and
46 constitutes a "core" proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A). The
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1 outcome of the Washington State Action could alter WMI's assets and liabilities. If WMI
2 were ordered to convene and hold an annual shareholders' meeting, it would be responsible
3 for paying the substantial costs of such a meeting and of waging a proxy contest against the
4 Equity Committee for the election of directors who will continue to support the Plan and
5 Settlement. Further, if the Equity Committee succeeds in its stated purpose of replacing
6 WMI's current board of directors, the administration of WMI's estate – and, indeed, WMI's
7 reorganization – will be substantially affected: a change in control of WMI could "torpedo"
8 the Plan and Settlement and thus the likelihood of WMI's emerging from chapter 11. Thus,
9 under § 1334(b), this Court has original jurisdiction over the claim asserted in the
10 Washington State Action.
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13 11. The District Court is the appropriate court for removal of a civil action from
14 the Superior Court of the State of Washington, for the County of Thurston. *See* Fed. R.
15 Bankr. P. 9027(a)(1). Thurston County, in which the Washington State Action was filed, is
16 located within the jurisdiction of this Court. Pursuant to District Court General Rule 7 and
17 Local Civil Rule 101(e), this action is hereby filed in the Bankruptcy Court.
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20 12. Because WMI first received Plaintiffs' complaint in the Washington State
21 Action on April 26, 2010, this Notice of Removal is timely. *See id.* 9027(a)(3).
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24 13. Thus, because this Court has original jurisdiction over the Washington State
25 Action and this case is not a civil proceeding in the U.S. Tax Court or a civil action to
26 enforce a governmental unit's police or regulatory power, § 1452(a) and Rule 9027 authorize
27 removal of the Washington State Action to this Court. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1452(a); Fed. R.
28 Bankr. P. 9027(a).
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31 14. A copy of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint to Compel Shareholders'
32 Meeting, filed May 4, 2010, is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Copies of all process and
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1 pleadings filed in the Washington State Action and the state court docket sheet are attached
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3 to the Report of State Court Proceedings, to be filed herein. Further, in accordance with
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5 Bankruptcy Rules 9027(b) and 9027(c), WMI will serve a copy of this Notice of Removal
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7 on all parties to the Washington State Action and will file a copy of this Notice of Removal
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9 with the clerk for the Superior Court of the State of Washington, for the County of Thurston.

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11 WHEREFORE WMI removes the action in its entirety now pending in the Superior
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13 Court of the State of Washington, for the County of Thurston, styled *Esopus Creek Value LP*
14
15 *and Michael Willingham v. Washington Mutual, Inc.* (Case No. 10-2-00854-1), to the
16
17 District Court and, by reference and local rules, from the District Court to the Bankruptcy
18
19 Court.

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23 DATED: May 13, 2010

PERKINS COIE LLP

24
25
26 By: /s/ John S. Kaplan

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28 JKaplan@perkinscoie.com

29 William C. Rava, WSBA No. 29948

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NOTICE OF REMOVAL – 6

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53000-0005/LEGAL18307356.1

Exhibit A

☐ EXPEDITE
☒ No hearing set
☐ Hearing is set:
Date:
Time:
Judge McPhee/Civil

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
FOR THE COUNTY OF THURSTON

MICHAEL WILLINGHAM and ESOPUS
CREEK VALUE LP,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

WASHINGTON MUTUAL, INC., a
Washington corporation,

Defendant.

No. 10-2-00854-1

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT TO
COMPEL SHAREHOLDERS'
MEETING

Plaintiffs Michael Willingham and Esopus Creek Value LP ("Plaintiffs"), shareholders of defendant Washington Mutual, Inc. ("Defendant" or "WaMu"), bring this action pursuant to RCW 23B.07.030 to compel a WaMu shareholders' meeting.

I. NATURE OF ACTION

1. This action is brought as a result of Defendant's failure, for more than two years, to convene its annual shareholders' meeting.

2. During the last two years, defendant, a publicly traded Washington corporation, also has failed to submit certain annual, quarterly, and other periodic reports, including financial statements, required to be filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

3. By failing to hold an annual shareholders' meeting, Defendant has deprived Plaintiffs and other shareholders from nominating and voting for WaMu directors.

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT TO COMPEL
SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING - 1

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PDX/121991/175276/CJF/5932052.1

4. Plaintiffs seek an order pursuant to RCW 23B.070.030(1)(a), summarily compelling Defendant to hold the required shareholders' meeting on a date certain, to be fixed by the Court, in accordance with Washington law, and to issue additional orders pursuant to RCW 23B.070.030(2).

II. PARTIES

5. Michael Willingham is an individual who resides in Pittsburg, Texas.

6. Michael Willingham is the beneficial owner of approximately 1,030,000 shares of common stock in WaMu.

7. Michael Willingham is a shareholder of WaMu.

8. Michael Willingham is entitled to vote in the election of directors of WaMu at an annual meeting.

9. Esopus Creek Value LP (“Esopus”) is a limited partnership organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware.

10. Esopus maintains its principal place of business at 150 JFK Parkway, Suite 100, Short Hills, New Jersey 07078.

11. Esopus is the beneficial owner of the following equity securities of WaMu: approximately 100,000 shares of common stock and approximately 15,000 shares of preferred stock.

12. Esopus is a shareholder of WaMu.

13. Esopus is entitled to vote in the election of directors of WaMu at an annual meeting.

14. WaMu's fiscal year is the same as the calendar year and ends on December 31.

15. WaMu's last annual shareholder meeting was held on or about April 15, 2008.

16. WaMu is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington.

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT TO COMPEL
SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING - 2

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PDX/121991/175276/CJF/5932052.1

1 17. WaMu maintains its registered office in Thurston County, Washington.

2 18. WaMu's registered agent for service of process in Washington is Corporation
3 Service Company, 300 Deschutes Way SW, Suite 304, Tumwater, Washington 98501.

4 19. WaMu is a savings bank holding company and the owner of Washington
5 Mutual Bank, which was the largest savings and loan association in the United States of
6 America.

7 20. On September 25, 2008, the United States Office of Thrift Supervision
8 ("OTS") seized Washington Mutual Bank from WaMu and placed it into the receivership of
9 the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC").

10 21. The FDIC sold WaMu's banking subsidiaries (minus unsecured debt or equity
11 claim) to JP Morgan Chase for \$1.9 billion.

12 22. The holding company, WaMu, was left with \$33 billion in assets and \$8
13 billion in debt after being stripped of its banking subsidiary by the FDIC.

14 23. On September 26, 2008, Defendant filed for Chapter 11 voluntary bankruptcy
15 in Delaware.

16 24. On April 21, 2010, the Honorable Mary Walrath held that the automatic
17 bankruptcy stay did not apply to bar shareholders from exercising their corporate governance
18 rights.

19 **III. VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

20 25. This court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to RCW 23B.07.030 and
21 Washington law.

22 26. WaMu's registered office is in Thurston County, Washington.

23 27. Venue is proper in Thurston County.

24 **IV. CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 28. Washington statute, at RCW 23B.07.030(1), provides that the superior court
26 of the county in which a corporation's registered office is located may, after notice to the

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT TO COMPEL
SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING - 3

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1 corporation, summarily order a meeting to be held: (a) On application of any shareholder of
2 the corporation entitled to vote in the election of directors at an annual meeting, if an annual
3 meeting was not held within the earlier of six months after the end of the corporation's fiscal
4 year or fifteen months after its last annual meeting or approval of corporate action by
5 shareholder consent in lieu of such a meeting; or (b) On application of a shareholder who
6 executed a demand for a special meeting valid under RCW 23B.07.020, if: (i) Notice of the
7 special meeting was not given within thirty days after the date the demand was delivered to
8 the corporation's secretary; or (ii) The special meeting was not held in accordance with the
9 notice.

10 29. Plaintiffs are shareholders of WaMu, and Plaintiffs are entitled to vote in the
11 election of directors of WaMu at an annual meeting.

12 30. WaMu's registered office is in Thurston County, Washington.

13 31. WaMu's fiscal year runs from January 1 to December 31.

14 32. WaMu has not held an annual shareholders' meeting since April 15, 2008.

15 33. WaMu held a special shareholders meeting on or about June 24, 2008. The
16 special shareholders meeting was for the purpose of raising capital.

17 34. An annual WaMu shareholders' meeting was not held within six months after
18 the end of WaMu's 2008 fiscal year.

19 35. An annual WaMu shareholders' meeting was not held within fifteen months
20 after its last annual meeting or approval of corporate action by shareholder consent in lieu of
21 such a meeting.

22 36. Washington statute, at RCW 23B.07.030(2), also provides that the court may,
23 after notice to the corporation, fix the time and place of the meeting, determine the shares
24 and shareholders entitled to participate in the meeting, specify a record date for determining
25 shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting, prescribe the manner, form, and
26 content of the meeting notice, fix the quorum required for specific matters to be considered at

1 the meeting, or direct that the votes represented at the meeting constitute a quorum for
2 approval of those matters, and enter other orders necessary to accomplish the purpose or
3 purposes of the meeting.

4 37. WaMu has not set a date for an annual meeting of shareholders in 2010.

5 38. WaMu did not hold an annual meeting within 15 months after its last annual
6 meeting.

7 39. WaMu has not taken any action by written consent to elect WaMu directors in
8 lieu of an annual meeting.

9 40. WaMu should be compelled to schedule and hold an annual shareholders'
10 meeting on a date certain, pursuant to RCW 23B.07.030.

11 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter an Order:

12 A. Directing Defendant to promptly convene and hold an annual shareholders'
13 meeting for the nomination and election of directors;

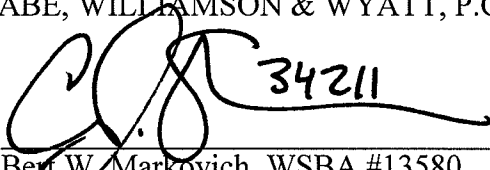
14 B. Designating the time and place of the annual meeting, as well as the form of
15 notice of the meeting to be delivered to all shareholders by Defendant; and

16 C. Entering further orders as necessary to accomplish the purposes of the
17 meeting.

18 Dated this 4th day of May, 2010.

19 SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

20
21 By:

 34211
Bert W. Markovich, WSBA #13580
Colin Folawn, WSBA #34211
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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25
26
FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT TO COMPEL
SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING - 5

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PDX\121991\175276\CJF\5932052.1

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

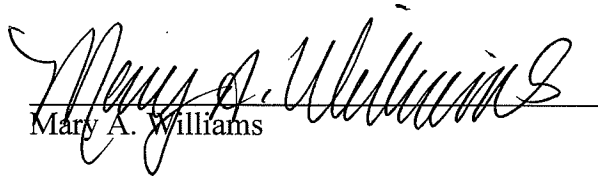
I hereby certify that on the 4th day of May, 2010, I caused to be served the foregoing
FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT TO COMPEL SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING on the
following parties at the following address:

Tom Boeder
William Rava
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Tel: 206.359.8000
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Email: tboeder@perkinscoie.com
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Counsel for Defendant

by:

<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Postal Service, ordinary first class mail
<input type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Postal Service, certified or registered mail,
<input type="checkbox"/>	return receipt requested
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	hand delivery
<input type="checkbox"/>	facsimile
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	electronic service
<input type="checkbox"/>	other (specify) _____


Mary A. Williams

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT TO COMPEL
SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING - 6

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